

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /078 W

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R 261434Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0291

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1776

E.O. 11652: N/A

GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV FR

SUBJECT : FRANCO-GUINEAN RELATIONS

REFERENCE : USUN 4826 (NOTAL); CONAKRY 1631 (NOTAL)

1. HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT GUINEAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED AND ARE HOLDING THREE FRENCH CITIZENS, INCLUDING PILOT AND 2 EXPERTS, WHO LANDED IN SMALL PLANE AT N'ZEREKORE NEAR BORDER WITH IVORY COAST MORNING NOVEMBER 25. ACCORDING TO FRENCHMEN PLANE WAS TRANSPORTING EXPERTS TO A PROJECT SITE IN IVORY COAST WHEN LACK OF VISIBILITY IN HEAVY FOG RESULTED IN OVERFLIGHT BEYOND IVORIAN TERRITORY AND LANDING AT NEAREST AIRPORT. WHEN PILOT REALIZED HE HAD MISTAKENLY LANDED IN GUINEA, HE TRIED TO TAKE OFF BUT RUNWAY WAS BLOCKED AND PERSONNEL ARRESTED. NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE OF ARREST ALTHOUGH IT HAS BECOME KNOWN SINCE FRENCHMEN WERE TRANSPORTED TO CONAKRY ON REGULAR AIR GUINEE FLIGHT FROM N'ZEREKORE.

2. WHATEVER EXPLANATIONS PERSONS INVOLVED MAY GIVE, GUINEANS SURE TO THINK THAT INCIDENT IS PART OF SOME IVORIAN AND/OR
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FRENCH ACTION AGAINST GUINEA. THIS INCIDENT IS LIKELY TO

COMPROMISE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS FOR NORMALIZATION OF FRANCO-GUINEAN RELATIONS WHICH PRESENTLY APPEARS TO BE HITTING SOME PROCEDURAL SNAGS.

3. LATEST DEVELOPMENT IS NOVEMBER 24 GUINEAN DECISION TO TURN DOWN PROPOSED VISIT OF FORMER MINISTER BETTENCOURT AND NOT TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH FRENCH UNTIL JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN ISSUED. (FRENCH HAD PROPOSED BETTENCOURT'S ARRIVAL IN GUINEA EVENING OF NOVEMBER 22 PROBABLY TO AVOID ANY ASSOCIATION WITH DAYTIME ACTIVITIES OF NOVEMBER 22 CELEBRATIONS MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY OVER INVADERS.) HOWEVER, GUINEANS HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS THROUGH ANDRE LEWIN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL. NEW ATTITUDE APPEARS TO INDICATE SOME HARDENING OF GUINEAN POSITION AND SUGGESTS THAT IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS MIGHT NOT PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS SEEMED POSSIBLE EARLIER.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

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